AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0004] spanning pages 2 and 3 with the following rewritten paragraph.

[0004] In some cases, however, such an e-mail printing system can create a situation where an MFP at the delivery destination cannot print the attachment file as it is prevented from being transmitted due to the capacity limitation of the relaying mail server. In order to solve the problem, there have been several proposals: a method of breaking down an e-mail message into a plurality of e-mail messages at the transmission source device, if the volume of said message exceeds said capacity limitation and restoring the original message from the divided messages at the transmission destination device (US 2001/0013056 A1); and a method of storing an attachment file at a specified location of the transmission ~~sorce~~ source device, if it cannot be transmitted due to a size limitation, and later accessing and downloading it from the stored location at the transmission destination device (US 2002/0140986 A1). However, there is a problem with the first method in that the process becomes too complicated as it is necessary for the transmission source device to divide the file in advance into smaller divisions according to a preset upper limit, which suits the smallest capacity limit among the mail servers the message has to deal with in its transmission. Also, there is a problem with the latter method in that it may be impossible for the transmission destination device to access the transmission source device due to the network environment of the transmission source device (firewall, etc.) if the transmission destination device cannot receive an e-mail message due to its size and hence it has to access the transmission source device.

Please replace paragraph [0057] on page 26 with the following rewritten paragraph.

[0057] Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing the constitution of MFP 11a, 12a, 13a and 14a pertaining to this embodiment. As shown in Fig. 2, MFP 11a, 12a, 13a and 14a are each equipped with a CPU 101, a ROM 102, a RAM 103, a hard disk 104, an operating (control) panel unit 105, an image scanning unit 106, a printing

unit 107, and a network interface 108.~~, and they~~ These constituent components are interconnected via a bus 109 for the purpose of signal exchanges.

Please replace paragraph [0063] spanning pages 27 and 28 with the following rewritten paragraph.

[0063] Since MFP 11a, 12a, 13a and 14a are constituted as described ~~in the~~ above, they have a function as a scanner for scanning the document, a function as a printer for printing the image data received from another equipment on the network, and a function as a copying machine for scanning the document and printing the image data.

Please replace paragraph [0074] spanning pages 31 and 32 with the following rewritten paragraph.

[0074] Upon receiving the e-mail from mail server 21a, as the attachment file of said e-mail is removed due to the capacity limitation of mail server 21a, MFP 11a transmits e-mail (attachment file transfer request mail) that contains its own IP address (i.e., information of its own online location) and a transfer request to MFP 14a, which is the transmission source of said e-mail, as well as to other transmission destinations MFP 12a and 13a (S110). Upon receiving the attachment file transfer request mail from MFP 11a, mail server 21a transfers it to mail servers 22a, 23a and 24a (S111); upon receiving it, mail servers 22a, 23a and 24a deliver it to MFP 12a, 13a and 14a, respectively (S112, ~~A113~~ S113 and S114).

Please replace paragraph [0075] on page 32 with the following rewritten paragraph.

[0076] Upon receiving the attachment file transfer request mail, MFP 12a, 13a and 14a try to access MFP 11a based on the IP address of MFP 11a contained in the attachment file transfer request mail. Since MFP 11a is on the external network, MFP 13a and MFP 14a are prevented from accessing MFP 11a by means of protective walls such as firewalls. On the other hand, since MFP 12a is located within the same internal network as MFP 11a, ~~so that~~ it can access MFP 11a via networks 32, 30 and 31. Therefore, MFP 12a transfers said attachment file it has

received and kept to MFP 11a via network (S115). Upon receiving said attachment file from MFP 12a, MFP 11a develops the received attachment file into bitmap data and prints it out (S116).

Please replace paragraph [0078] on page 34 with the following rewritten paragraph.

[0078] Files to be attached to e-mail in the e-mail transmission procedure for MFP 14a described ~~in the~~ above are not necessarily limited to the image data acquired by image scanning unit 106, but can be files of various file ~~format~~ formats acquired from other equipments on the network, in which case MFP 14a prepares the e-mail by receiving the files to be attached via network 34 and network interface 108.

Please replace paragraph [0088] on page 40 with the following rewritten paragraph.

[0088] Upon receiving the e-mail deprived of the attachment file from mail server 21a, MFP 11b transmits e-mail for requesting response of IP address (IP address response request mail) to MFP 14b, which is the transmission source, and MFP 12b and 13b, which are other transmission destinations of said e-mail (S510). Upon receiving the IP address response request mail from MFP 11b, mail server 21a transmits it to mail servers 22a, 23a and 24a (S511), and mail servers 22a, 23a and 24a receive it and deliver it to MFP 12b, 13b and 14b, respectively (S512, S513 and S514).

Please replace paragraph [0089] on page 40 with the following rewritten paragraph.

[0089] Upon receiving the IP address response request mail, MFP 12b, 13b and 14b ~~return~~ transmit response e-mail messages containing their own IP addresses (IP address response mail) to MFP 11b respectively (S515, S516 and S517); upon receiving them, mail servers 22a, 23a and 24a transmits them to mail server 21a (S518, S519 and S520), upon receiving them, mail server 21a delivers them to MFP 11b (S521).

Please replace paragraph [0093] spanning pages 42 and 43 with the following rewritten paragraph.

[0042] Next, in Figs. 14-16, if MFP 11b can access to the MFP corresponding to the extracted IP address (S607: Yes), ~~it~~MFP 11b transmits an attachment file transfer request to said MFP corresponding to the extracted IP address via network interface 108 and network 31 (S608). ~~It~~ MFP 11b waits until it receives the attachment file from said MFP corresponding to the extracted IP address (S609: No), stores the attachment file to the hard disk when it receives the attachment file from said MFP corresponding to the extracted IP address via network 31 and network interface 108 (S609: yes), develops the attachment file to bitmap data (S610), and prints it out by means of printing unit 107 (S611).

Please replace paragraph [0094] on page 43 with the following rewritten paragraph.

[00094] Incidentally, the system can also be constituted in such a way that said MFP corresponding to the extracted IP address has to go through an access certification procedure when MFP 11b accesses said MFP in order to receive the attachment file, in which case the IP address response request mail which MFP 11b transmits to the transmission source and other transmission destinations contains a response request for information such as ID and password that are required for said certification procedure, and MFP 11b goes through said certification using the information such as ID and password that are contained in the IP address response mail received from said MFP corresponding to the extracted IP address.

Please replace paragraph [0095] spanning pages 43 and 44 with the following rewritten paragraph.

[0095] On the other hand, if the e-mail received in step S601 is an IP address response request mail from another MFP (e.g., MFP 12b, 13b, 14b) (S601: yes; S602: No; S605: No; and S612: Yes), a search for said attachment file is made in hard disk 104, and if said attachment file exists (S613: Yes), IP address response mail containing its own IP address is returned to said another MFP (S614). It then waits for a transfer request for the attachment file to arrive from said another MFP

(S615: No), and, upon receiving the attachment file transfer request from said another MFP via network 31 and network interface 108 (S615: Yes), it then transmits the attachment file to said another MFP via network interface 108 and network 31 (S616).

Please replace paragraph [0101] spanning pages 46 and 47 with the following rewritten paragraph.

[0101] Although it was assumed in the aforementioned embodiments that the image processing device according to the present invention is an MFP having scanning, printing, copying and e-mail printing functions, the image processing device according to the present invention is not limited ~~it~~thereto. Other modes of the image processing device according to this invention include scanners, printers, digital copying machines, facsimile machines, e-mail printers and the like, either as a standalone unit or an MFP having a combination of their functions.